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Amendments to the Claims.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-45 (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn) A method for correctly establishing a match between a hospital product or patient to be correlated and at least one hospital product or patient that is correlated to said first hospital product or patient to be correlated, comprising the steps of:

-- assigning to said hospital product or patient to be correlated first memory means that store a predefined unique code for identification of said first hospital product or patient to be correlated,

-- remotely transmitting and loading a content of said first memory means into second memory means associated respectively with said at least one correlated hospital product or patient,

-- performing a procedure for comparing the content of said first memory means and a content of said second memory means.

47. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 46, wherein, between said assignment step and said remote transmission step, a step of remote loading additional data related to said hospital product or patient to be correlated in said first memory means.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 47, wherein said remote transmission step and said remote loading step are performed via radiofrequency.

49. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 46, comprising a step of encrypting the data contained in said first memory means and in said second memory

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means and a step of decrypting the data encrypted in said encryption step.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 46, comprising a step of downloading the content of said first memory means or of said second memory means into at least one computer, which is connected over a network to a database of hospitalized patients.

51. (currently amended) A positive identification device for establishing correctly a match between a hospital product or patient to be correlated and at least one hospital product or patient that is correlated to said hospital product or patient to be correlated, comprises:

-- a first identification transceiver passive RFID transponder device comprising first memory means and which is suitable to be affixed to said hospital product or patient to be correlated;

-- a predefined non-modifiable unique identification code for said hospital product or patient to be correlated that is pre-entered and stored by a manufacturer of said transponder device in said first memory means;

-- at least one second correlation transceiver passive RFID transponder device comprising second memory means, and which is suitable to be affixed, respectively, to said at least one hospital product, or patient that is correlated to said hospital product, or patient to be correlated;

-- data remote transfer means for downloading by remote transmission a data content of said first memory means into said second memory means;

wherein said remote transfer means are constituted by at least one processor-equipped device that comprises radiofrequency transponder reading and programming means and processor-equipped control means, and by at least one memory thereof for storing data transactions performed with and between said first and second memory means and with any remote computer;

and wherein said radiofrequency transponder reading and programming means are

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provided functionally connected to said processor-equipped control means for enabling it to access data stored in the first and second memory means and to load further data thereinto, said processor-equipped control means being provided with software suitable to perform comparison between the data content of the first memory means and a data content of the second memory means.

52. (previously presented) The device of claim 51, wherein said first memory means are adapted to store additional data related to said hospital product or patient to be correlated.

53. (previously presented) The device of claim 52, wherein said first memory means are adapted to store data related to said at least one correlated hospital product or patient.

54. (previously presented) The device of claim 51, comprising comparator means that comprises said software suitable to perform comparison between the data content of the first memory means and the data content of the second memory means and to verify a matching thereof.

55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented) The device according to claim 54, wherein said at least one processor-equipped device further comprises signaling means that are functionally connected to said comparator means and are adapted to report matching between the data content of said first memory means and the data content of said second memory means.

57. (previously presented) The device according to claim 51, wherein said at least one processor-equipped device comprises data entry means.

58. (previously presented) The device according to claim 57, wherein said data entry means comprise a keyboard.

59. (previously presented) The device according to claim 57, wherein said at least one processor-equipped device comprises printing means.

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60. (previously presented) The device according to claim 57, wherein said at least one processor-equipped device comprises display means that are adapted to display the content of said first memory means and of said second memory means.

61. (previously presented) The device according to claim 51, wherein said processor-equipped device comprises means for interfacing with at least one remote computer.

62. (previously presented) The device according to claim 61, wherein said processor-equipped device comprises encryption/decryption means that are adapted to encrypt/decrypt the content of said first memory means and of said second memory means.

63. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said first identification transponder is supported by an identification bracelet.

64. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said first identification transponder is supported by a card assignable to a patient.

65. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said at least one second correlation transponder is provided with affixing means for affixing said at least one correlation transponder to a container for said at least one correlated hospital product.

66. (previously presented) The device according to claim 65, wherein said affixing means comprise an adhesive label.

67. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said at least one second correlation transponder is integrated in a container.

68. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said first identification transponder and said at least one second correlation transponder are commercially available, disposable RFID tags.

69. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[55]] 51, wherein said at least one processor-equipped device is a multifunction personal digital assistant

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provided with a RF interface and with at least one flash memory.

70. (currently amended) A positive identification device for establishing correctly a match between a hospital product or patient to be correlated and at least one hospital product or patient that is correlated to said hospital product or patient to be correlated, comprises:

-- a first identification passive RFID transponder tag device comprising first memory means and which is suitable to be affixed to said hospital product or patient to be correlated;

-- a predefined non-modifiable unique identification code for said hospital product or patient to be correlated that is is pre-entered and stored by a manufacturer of said transponder device in said first memory means;

-- at least one second correlation passive RFID transponder tag device comprising second memory means, and which is suitable to be affixed, respectively, to said at least one hospital product, or patient that is correlated to said hospital product, or patient to be correlated;

-- data remote transfer means for downloading by remote transmission a data content of said first memory means into said second memory means;

wherein said remote transfer means are constituted by at least one remote computer connected in a network and by at least one multifunction personal digital assistant that comprises radiofrequency transponder reading and programming means and processor-equipped control means and at least one memory for storing data transactions performed with, and between said first and second memory means, and with any said remote computer that is provided with software for managing the processor-equipped control means and for managing data downloaded from the at least one memory for storing data transactions;

and wherein said radiofrequency transponder reading and programming means are provided functionally connected to said processor-equipped control means for enabling it

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to access data stored in the first and second memory means and to load further data thereinto, said processor-equipped control means being further provided with software suitable to perform comparison between the data content of the first memory means and a data content of the second memory means.